

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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U.S. Couple Accused in Greek Coup

By Drew Pearson

An American girl born in Elmhurst, Ill., and her husband, former head of the economics department at the University of California, are the center of a storm in Athens which has already negated the Truman Doctrine, overturned democracy in the birthplace of democracy, and raised a



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question mark regarding the Johnson Administration's policy toward dictatorships.

The State Department has been very reluctant to speak out in condemnation of the only military dictatorship set up in Europe since Franco seized Spain over 30 years ago.

The American, Margaret Chant, studied at the University of Minnesota, where she met and married a young Greek-American, Andreas Papandreou, who became an economics professor. Together they organized the first Adlai Stevenson-for President Club at the university. Papandreou later went on to become economics head at the University of California and later went back to help his father when the latter became Prime Minister of Greece. Margaret went with him.

Andreas renounced his American citizenship, became

a member of the Greek Cabinet, and, together with his father, set up the first liberal Greek government since the war.

Today Andreas is charged with treason by the military dictatorship ruling Greece, while Margaret some time ago was given a five-hour grilling before a military tribunal without the right of counsel or a translator.

The accusation against her was that she was the real head of Aspida, Greek for "shield," a liberal group of army officers which was charged with conspiring against the old monarchist clique in the army.

All sorts of prominent leaders, ranging from Willy Brandt, foreign minister of West Germany, to Dr. Walter Heller, former head of the President's Economic Council and former professor at the University of Minnesota, have appealed to the White House to help rescue Andrea Papandreou.

The American Embassy has made representations, some observers feel too timidly, to permit Andreas to come back and teach in an American university.

Truman's Birthday Present

Meanwhile the trouble in Greece goes much deeper than the plight of this American couple. It could jeopardize the entire Truman Doctrine, which was aimed at keeping friendly Greece and

Turkey, on both sides of the Bosphorus, key entrance to the Soviet Union and the Black Sea.

Nothing could be a worse birthday present for Harry Truman, who reaches his 83d birthday in about a week, than the blow to democracy which has just been struck in Greece.

Part of the problem, however lies at his door. Under the Truman Doctrine the United States immediately began building up Greek military strength, ignoring political and social reform. Jack Peurifoy, U.S. Ambassador to Greece under Mr. Truman, boasted to me when I visited Athens in 1951 that he had 30 Greek army divisions ready to come to the support of the United States.

Since then the United States has poured \$1,854,000,000 of military aid into Greece, all of it a gift.

For a dozen years in Athens, the Greek government operated on the philosophy that it was a bulwark for the United States against eastern communism. Then, in 1959, the United States under President Eisenhower changed the signals. He met with Khrushchev at Camp David and launched a policy of coexistence and better understanding with Moscow.

Two months later, when I lunched with Premier Karamanlis beside the Aegean outside Athens, he complained bitterly:

"First you say the Communists are our enemies. now you say we've got to make friends with the Communists. How am I going to sell my Parliament on a big army when you say there is no longer danger from communism?"

Karamanlis, an efficient, pro-American, governed Greece for eight years. Since he bowed out there has been political uncertainty. Part of it has been due to Central Intelligence.

Ellis Briggs, U.S. Ambassador who served in Greece during the Karamanlis days, has written a book in which he bluntly states that he never knew what Central Intelligence was doing and that the CIA men had more money to spend than the American Embassy. Other observers have noted that the CIA secretly intervened in Greek elections, and more recently the CIA has been given some responsibility for the military coup.

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20-Year-Old Model Named Miss England

LONDON, April 29 (AP)—Jennifer Lewis, a 20-year-old brunette professional model, defeated 32 other beauty contestants last night to become Miss England 1967.

Jennifer will compete in the Miss Europe contest in Nice at the end of May and in the Miss Universe contest at Miami, Fla., in July.